(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Considering the distance between Delhi and Abu Road of over 740 Kms., single line section & speed, it would not be operationally feasible to run a Shatabdi Express/Intercity between the two points.

[English]

Cancellation of Contracts for Maintenance of Railway Station

2982. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken decision to cancel all contracts for maintenance of major railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the alternative measures the Government propose to take for maintenance of major railway stations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) In 1993, a scheme for beautification-cum-maintenance in lieu of sole advertisement rights had been introduced at a few important stations on Indian Railways. The scheme has been discontinued as it had been decided that petty maintenance work will be done departmentally.

Village Public Telephone Project

2983. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Communications is thinking of placing additional equipment orders to a few vendors in an attempt to meet the target for its Village Public Telephone Project for 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the project;

(c) whether the target for VPT for 1996-97 was set at 75000;

(d) if so, whether the target has been achieved;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the shortfall noticed; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the target for Village Telephone Project?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The actual achievement of the target will be known after 31.3.1997.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) All efforts are being made to meet the targets for Village Public Telephone Project within the scheduled time.

[Translation]

Shortage of Worker in P.F. Office

2984. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the official work of Employment Provident Fund Office, Surat is being adversely affected due to shortage of class III and IV employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of class III and IV employees working at present in the said office and the number ofthose required; and

(d) the steps taken to appoint requisite number of employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) All the 21 Group 'D' posts sanctioned for the Sub-Regional Providnt Fund Office at Surat and filled. Of the 216 Group 'C' posts sanctioned for the office (including 68 posts sanctioned during 1996-97), 126 are presently filled. While shortage of staff affects normal functioning of the office, the organisation has been trying to ensure that the work relating to service to the subscribers contiunes satisfactorily. The Employees, Provident Fund Organisation has initiated necessary action to fill the vacant posts according to the prescribed procedure.

T.V. Studio, Patna

2985. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :
PROF. RITA VERMA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred question No. 3467 on August 29, 1996 regarding TV Studio, Patna and state:

(a) whether all the formalities regarding commissioning of said TV studio have since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is likely to be started;

(d) the loss incurred by the Government due to closure of the above studio;

(e) whether the Governement propose to regularise the staff of the said studio for smooth functioning of the Kendra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) Though the new permanent studio set up at DDK Patna was commissioned on 15.3.1996, the power supply available was not found adequate for the smooth functioning of the new studio set up. Besides, staff sanction for the permanent studio set up is yet to be accorded by the competent authority. While some units of the kendra have already started functioning from the new studio, normal operations of the permanent studio set up would depend upon availability of uninterrupted power supply and sanction of full complement of staff.

(e) and (f) A scheme for regularisation of casual artists working in various Doordarshan Kendras was formulated in 1992 and subsequently modified in 1994. The casual artists, who are eligible under the scheme, are placed on a panel as per seniority and are regularised as and when vacancies become available.

Demand of Air Traffic and Extension

2986. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding increasing demand of air traffic and need of its extension in domestic and international market;

(b) whether there is vast scope of training as a result of extension in the field of aviation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether necessary measures are being taken by the Government to start the pilot and other related training at division level in the country with private and international assistance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Trends in air traffic are regularly monitored and analysed. Additional arircraft capacity is inducted for increasing air traffic and personnel are imparted necessary training by the airlines concerned.

(d) and (e) No Sir, presently training is being imparted whereever approved facilities are available.

Post and Telegraph Facilities in Haryana

2987. CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Haryana where proper post and telegraph facilities have been provided so far;

(b) the number of post offices out of them where STD facilities have been provided;

(c) the number of post and telegraph offices proposed to be opened by the Government during 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(d) the details of the time bound scheme of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of Gram Panchayats in Haryana where proper post and telegraph facilities have been provided is 2280 and 64 respectively.

(b) There is no Post Office where STD facilities have been provided.

(c) and (d) 9 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 7 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been opened during 1996-97. Targets for opening of Post Offices are allocated Postal Circle-wise under Annual Plan Scheme on year to year basis. These have not been finalised for 1997-98.

No target for providing Telegraph facility is fixed as it is provided on demand and justification of traffic.

[English]

Allocation of Amount to Karnataka

2988. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the allocation made by the Union Government for development of tourist spots in Karnataka during each of the last three years, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Department of Tourism, Government of India during the last three years has sanctioned central financial assistance to the State of Karnataka amounting to Rs. 636.76 lakhs. The details are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Projects/Schemes sanctioned during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96

Sl.No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
	KARNATAKA	
	1993-94	
1.	Public Conveniences at Tourist Centres in Karnataka	25.68